P.S. final.
[Too long a letter,
and too small in
its chirography for
your eyes! — Lay it aside; or take but a little at a time!]

Boston, Decr. 6, 185[illegible].

Dear Mary Esther,

The sight of a letter from you was welcome and inspiriting, for I knew you must be at least a little better, — or that was at any rate the first feeling, — and I was indeed most glad to find that my hope was in a degree confirmed, and that you were improved by your summer's rest and rambles. — And I was glad to really ✱ get track of you again; for I had been for a long time in entire uncertainty as to where you were (whether at home or elsewhere — then, whether in England, or Italy, or between the two,) and also as to how you were, worse or better. The failure of the worthy Mr. Revel to deliver seasonably the letters committed to him in March last, (some dated in February,) and his retaining them until November (!) deprived me of the knowledge, (you kindly meant I should have had, of your intended departure for the So. of Europe. Some time in the Summer (I cannot now fix the date) I heard circuitously through the Weston correspondence with their family here that you were in Rome! I certainly should not have been very much more surprised to have heard that you were in Calcutta. Then, after a time, I received a letter from Anne Weston in which she gave me many particulars of your health, indeed of your suffering in Rome. Sincerely did I lament my inability to do the slightest thing for your relief, and I was fearful that such an experience would break down and wear away about the whole of the vital strength which remained to you. — I got but little else ~~from~~ about you, of a definite character, until that true & kind friend Eliza Wigham wrote to me quite a full account of ~~that~~ your movements

and health subsequently to your return to England.
About two weeks after getting hers, came the packet per Mrs Revel, (due 7 months before) and then soon followed your own, giving me quite an insight into your present states, so to speak, both of mind and body. I am not a little glad thus to recover sight of you, and ~~[illegible]~~ even more to find that you are somewhat better. Now I hope (amidst many fears) that you had not to pay the penalty of headaches, and suffering days & nights, for writing that letter. I should greatly prefer never to get another letter from you, to having them on such conditions.

Another Bazaar, as you know, is impending. To be held, in such a season of mercantile disorder, of financial embarrassment of diminished resources on the part of the whole community and of every individual member of it, as the Bazaar has never known yet, and as no person now living here has ever seen, I think. Nothing like it has happened in my memory; and I see that England, Scotland, &c. are having a very similar experience to that of this country. Things are however certainly improving, though very gradually indeed, and nothing approaching to confidence and ease are felt yet. If this winter can be struggled through, without more & worse disaster, we shall be fortunate. With a new Spring, all look for a new start to activity in all manufacturing, mechanic, & ~~agricultural~~ commercial employments, and when people are busy, their anxieties depart, and cheerfulness returns. But, for the Bazaar, none of us are sanguine. Even Mrs. Chapman thinks we cannot look to pay over £1000. or £1200. to the American Society where, last year, we paid considerably over £4000. Our ladies desire to hit the happy medium, if possible, between too low a price for the Bazaar goods and the no sale of them at all. They mean, at all events, not to sacrifice really valuable property entrusted to them for the Anti-slavery cause, and there will be no running things off "at ruinously low prices", as all the shop-keepers are saying now. The ladies have been busily engaged in examining and marking the past 4 days. They have had before them the great Bristol box, the Nottingham box, the Bolton box, and the 3 from Edinburgh (which included Dundee, Perth, &c.) Two boxes

MS. Boston Public Library

from Italy, &c. had previously been under inspection. There are 7 more now in the Custom house, which we expect to have in about 3 days; - indeed 3 of them, I should rather say, are not yet out of the ships which brought them. The Dublin box, through want of distinct direction from R. D. Webb, was sent to New York, and is subjected to some delay there, for reasons which I don't know. And the box of De la Rue Stationery, the gift of friends in & about Dublin, - always very attractive and saleable, - also owing to want of seasonable order from Mr. Webb, was on the 16th November put on board a sailing vessel, instead of a steamship, and so we are sure to lose it; } Without that, however, there will be at least 16 cases of goods, the donations of foreign friends. And, so far as seen, the things are very beautiful. You will feel an especial interest to hear of the Bristol box, and the ladies were unanimous that a better or more saleable, are never came from Bristol. They almost jumped up & clapped hands at the sight of the beautiful baskets, and of such a large and various assortment. These will be sure to sell at the best prices ever charged. - It must indeed have been a great care and personal labour to Mrs. Anna Thomas to get these articles together, and prepare them for packing; and we are deeply indebted to her for her large help to the cause. My wife has been moved to write a note to Mrs. Thomas on the subject - which perhaps you will see. Will you kindly forward it?

(Dec. 7.) Perhaps I should give you Mr. Reed's reason, in his own words, for the delay in the transmission of his letters. Here it is, taken from a note to me, dated "Five Points House of Industry, New York, Nov. 11/57." "Circumstances in connexion with my engagement in the English Temperance Movement detained me in that country some months longer than I anticipated when receiving charge of the letters: and I beg you to ascribe to this cause any delay which has taken place in the transmission to you of the enclosed". - The ~~Earliest~~ most grievous result of the delay, of which I have

Pray don't send this or any other letter to R. D. W. [illegible] 5 Sep. 1858 [illegible] 7 Nov. 1858

heard is in the case of Mr. Armstrong's letter to Parker Pillsbury. Written in March (or Feb.) last, – the first he ever wrote to P. P., & warmly expressing the pleasure he would feel at receiving an answer, it did not reach P. P. till near the middle of November, some three months after Mr. Armstrong had died! P. P. felt it keenly. – It was by Mr. R. that you forwarded to me the copy of Mrs. Stowe's letter to the Earl of Shaftesbury & others. But even at this late day, it is a very interesting letter, and we heartily thank you for taking so much pains to procure for us a copy of it. Rumours of it, and intimations of parts of its contents, had appeared from time to time, but nothing which gave me any clear idea of its true nature. It is not surprising at all to me that Mr. Joseph Sturge thought it wise to show it to the fewest possible people, and to take care that the bare knowledge of the existence of it was limited as much as possible. His course amounted to a suppression of the truth, to promote his own ends, and I believe it to have been a dishonest as well as a very unwise action. I wish Mrs. Stowe herself were more open and fearless, and that she would frankly and plainly say in this country what she knows to be true of the Cause and its Friends, as well as to write it to a few friends abroad, – so very few, too, as they turn out to be, through Joseph Surface's (I mean Sturge's) pious fraud. – I could not but be amused at Mrs. Stowe's saying that "We have impartially aided both F. Douglas's paper and the Anti-Slavery Standard", when I subsequently read that "to the Standard we made the subscription of $50., while to F. Douglas's paper we furnished $500. free of interest for four years besides donations at different times to the amount of $35." – Of course the $500. is to be reckoned an onerous gift. I do not think she can expect ever to see again a dollar of it. I do not believe she ever will.

Mrs. Stowe writes to our Bazaar ladies that her two daughters will be present at our Bazaar and give us their aid.

In yours of Nov. 6., you enclosed a copy of the B. & Foreign a.s. Soc'y's invitation to Charles Sumner of this city, then in London. About a week after his return to America, Mr. Sumner called at our Office, and sat an hour in the pleasantest conversation with us, — Mr. Garrison being present nearly all the time. In course of his remarks, he alluded to his meeting a circle of friends in London. I, supposing him to allude to the "private Soirée," said I had heard of the invitation sent to him by the B. & F. Committee. — Oh no, he said, he did not refer to that at all. He said he was never more astonished in his life than when he understood that that Soirée was announced — that he had given no authority to any one for supposing he would appear in company, on special invitation, at so public a place, — and that, so soon as he learned the fact, he drove immediately to Mr. Chamerovzow and told him he could not, possibly, attend any such Soirée, and put an entire stop to proceedings. — Mr. Sumner has gone to Washington to take his seat in Congress, which meets to-day. He is warned that any active participation in debate will be "at the hazard of his life."

You may rest assured, dear friend Mary, that your long silence, though I could not fully understand it, never for an instant led me to doubt your interest in our work, nor your kind and friendly regard for myself. I had fully brought my mind, - much more than a year ago, - to the conviction that you ought not to write to us often, and that we ought not to expect long, or any, letters from you, since the writing them was so very likely to be followed by much and severe suffering. And as I had said to you something of this kind, I trusted that you took me at my word, gave me credit for sincerity, and would not fear that I should forget you, or that happy and (to me) so valuable past period of my life when I was in regular & frequent correspondence with your Father and yourself, - nor imagine I should ascribe a long silence on your part to any other than the right, and that a most sufficient, reason. And I can truly say that, long as the hiatus in our correspondence was, your last letter was a rich payment for the delay. And, should it be so long again, or longer, I will promise not to lose faith in Mary Estlin's devotion to a Cause which she loves not less for its inherent Worth than for her father's sake,

nor ever think of questioning her deep sympathy and oneness with those whom her father loved and trusted, so long as they shall continue worthy to have had that trust and love. — "We mean to continue worthy of all the confidence with which good men and women, — such as are both good and wise — have honored us; and to press forward to all the Service which Truth still demands of us. — Send us then your words of cheer, admonition, & counsel when you can without an injury to yourself, and we will trust you for the rest.

I was greatly interested in reading your account of the effects of your journey to Italy, — and of the indirect benefits it had conferred upon you. I think you have a great power of analyzing mental experiences, and then of clearly describing them; — a power of intro-spection, of watching the effect of outward circumstances upon mental states and processes, and then of setting the whole very clearly & vividly before another. I am not flattering you, I trust you see — but only telling you what I (and others) have long been struck with in your letters. I notice this power of yours the more, because I am conscious of greatly wanting it myself. I really marvel, at times, at the facility and clearness of your descriptive powers — descriptive, not of external things, but of ideas, sensations, emotions, cause and effect in mental experiences, and of the connexion between the body and the mind. — I shall not make my meaning any clearer by going on, so I will say no more; — but only suggest a fear I lately have had, viz. that, in the want of that congenial society you once had, & enjoyed so long, and in the "solitariness" to which you are brought, through the insufficiency of other society now brought into such strong & distasteful contrast to your eyes, you may look inwardly too much, may feed too long & exhaustingly upon your memories & treasured images within, and thus diminish the recuperative power of your system. I say this, dear Mary, with a good deal of distrust, yet very sure that you will not be offended with me, however much I may have misjudged you in it. But

indeed I feel borne out a little in my view of your case by your own expressed hope for a renewal of such sympathy and "co-adjutor-ship" as once you had. I shall therefore take a friend's liberty - you permit me to feel that I am fully such - by begging you, partly for the sake of the past, not to lament too much your present inability to do justice to that past, but to cherish all your present strength and use every wise & ready means of increasing it, in the faith that a way for the best employment and consecration of all your gifts and abilities will at length open before you. - What I have said is the result of your own words, and my thoughts of them. No human being ever hinted to me any view of your health, beyond that of affectionate sympathy in it. I know you are not suspicious in the least - yet I will run no risk of your thinking I have had it put into my head to advise you!].

You speak of the failure of your Father's latest effort - to make the Antislavery people of G. Britain understand Frederick Douglass. It is true he had not time to carry out his wishes fully, but I think his few words have done good, and they will be recalled, and thought of more deeply, I feel sure, bye & bye. Julia Griffiths gets money and subscribers by sheer impudence, - at least in a great many cases, - that I know. It is personal importunity, mixed with a certain Religious phraseology, (the apt use of which in its application to superficial & ordinary minds she understands pretty well) which gives her her success. I do not regard her movement as having a vital & deep-rooted hold upon any great amount of conscience or intellect. She manages to get an occasional pound from Lord Shaftesbury, or some Buxton, (probably by means not very lady-like) and by the artful publication of these names contrives to bait her appeals to the public at large. She is a successful beggar, without much principle, honour, or delicacy. Yet, far greater frauds, tricks, what Americans call "humbugs" exist in the world, catch the popular eye and ear, and draw along the busy crowd. She certainly deserves the credit of having kept up F. D.'s paper; without her it would have perished years ago. But There is really nothing in it or about it which makes it worthy to live. It reaches nothing lofty or ennobling.

Meanwhile, in these disastrous pecuniary times, our Society

and papers have to struggle hard for their existence. Yet sure as I am that the Antislavery Cause has in it a power tenacity of life, I am not at all afraid that it will perish. And I hope that none of our instrumentalities will; but of it we never can feel so sure. Certain I feel of this - that one agency or organ fails, another will take its place. While slavery lives, it will itself provoke the abhorrence, scorn, and unceasing hostility of every honest and good soul; and has no power in itself to resist the weapons with which such souls are ever armed.

[You speak of temporarily giving up your copy of the Liberator, while you cannot read it, to some one here who would. Hoping that, ere long, you will be able to take occasional look at its columns, and may also hear of a useful way of circulating it, I would advise against your stopping it. Of course I might find a use for it here; & me have other copies to supply such occasional openings. I doubt not your taking it is a fact of value to our cause; a fear that your ceasing to do so might be mis-interpreted, and have weight against us. - In a late number (for Oct. 30.) I had a notice Mr. Armstrong. I should like to have you read it, when you can read a piece of that length, and sometime tell me what you may see in it. - I have also, in the forthcoming "Liberty Bell", a brief notice of Mr. A. Doubtless a copy of the "Bell" will get to you ~~at done~~ in due time.]

I did not mean to tax you, & your eyes and head, with a letter more than half as long as this. I hope you will put it by, long before you reach the end, & not be made weary by it. - I could not omit these several topics, well, but I might have been briefer. With sincere respect and affection,

Yours Sam: May Jr.

P. S. May I trouble you to enclose, in an envelope the accompanying biographical notice of C. C. Burleigh, and send it to Richard D. Webb?